




THE  
DANGER  
OF IMPROVING  
PHYSICK, &c.

T is a seeming Paradox, *that a Physician, who improves his Profession* (the Practical Part of it especially) *should hazard his Reputation by such Improvements*; for what ought People more earnestly to desire, than that the Guardians of their Health should be governed by certain and obvious Rules? A Physician who hath enabled himself, by great Learning and Industry, to remove prevailing Errors, and convert Doubts into evident Truths, is justly intitled to the utmost esteem of the People, and a Confidence in him; since one false step, often closes the Eyes of the  
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sick, and hurries them headlong into their Graves.

WHEREAS, on the contrary, Experience shews us that Physicians, who have been the most successful in their Endeavours to dispel this Darknes, and chalk out plain, though untrodden Paths, unavoidably expose themselves to Calumny and Reproach; by which means their Discoveries are often discredited, and Mankind is deprived of the Benefit, which they would otherwise receive from them.

IT is, no doubt, the Interest of those Pretenders to Physick, who make a Trade of their Profession, to guard against that Veneration, which People naturally conceive for those, who establish a perfect Practice, or give us more familiar Notions of the Nature of Diseases; for as these Conspirators against Mankind, have generally no Capacity to apprehend such *Discoveries* themselves, their chief Fear is, that the People should resort to the *Discoverers*, and intrust them with the Care of their Health. It is therefore very manifest, that *learned Physicians* will always be subject to the Calumny of these Men, as the greatest Obstructors of their Traffick and Gains.

THE Truth is, that we live in an Age, in which *Monopolies* and *Cabals* are generally condemn'd, and yet as generally encouraged.



couraged. Men, who despair of succeeding in their respective Professions, by fair and honest Means, have found out a Trick of associating themselves into *Factions*, and often obtain that by *Numbers*, which they could never have acquired by *personal Merit* or *Capacity*. The great Mischief of these *Combinations* is, that the most *able* and *useful* Members of Society, commonly fall a Sacrifice to them, and the Publick suffers for the sake of a *few ignorant Engrossers*.

THESE Arts have long been complained of in *Mercantile* and *Political* Affairs. They are still more unwarrantable in the *Liberal Sciences*, which will always decline under *partial Restraints* and *Discouragements*; but of all the Liberal Sciences, they are most ridiculous in the Profession of *Medicine*, which relates to the Health and Lives of Mankind. The whole Merit of a Physician consists in his exact Knowledge of the animal OEconomy; his Penetration into the secret Causes of Diseases; his Sagacity in distinguishing them under all their various Symptoms; and his Judgment in administering the most proper Remedies. These are Qualifications, which require great Study, long Experience, and nice Observation; but what Encouragement is there for any Gentlemen to put themselves to all this Trouble, when they find that it will do them more Mischief than Service; and that a Reputa-

tion in *Physick* is to be obtained only, like a *Place at Court*, by servile Attendance on a *great, overgrown Practitioner*, who both raised himself to the Head of his Profession by *mean Arts*, and is supported in it by others, with the *same Views*.

FOR this Reason the Faculty of *Physick* can never flourish, nor the Practice of it be improved, under *Cabals, Factions, and Confederacies*. There ought to be no *Prime-Minister* in this Profession, who hath a Power to raise or depress whom he pleases, and engross the Lives of the whole Town into his own Hands.

AND yet, these *trading, exclusive Companies in Physick*, have often proved very successful in their Impositions on the World, and done great Prejudice to the *most learned Professors* of that Art; but when their Blunders have been discover'd, they have been despised and deserted by the very Persons, who adored them before. The worst Consequence is, that such Discoveries leave a Blemish on the *Profession itself*; for when the People have been often deluded in this Manner, and, like *Noah's Dove*, don't know where to fix their Choice; they are apt to conclude, that *Physick* is only a *crafty Invention* to cheat them out of their Money, and that the *Professors* of it are little better than *Impostors*.



IT would be easy to prove, that the present Decay of *Physick*, in it's Honour and Esteem with the World, is almost entirely owing to the Arrogance and Insufficiency of these *Cabals*, however able they may have proved in deceiving the World for some Time; and that People place all *Dispensers of Physick* on the same Level, when the Weakness of several *Combinations* hath been discovered; but as this is not my present Purpose, I shall proceed to evince the Truth of my former Assertion, *that the most learned Physicians are always most subject to Obloquy, on account of their superiour Knowledge and Discoveries.*

FOR a Proof of this, we could have recourse to a multitude of Instances; but we chuse to confine ourselves at present, to the late Dr *Freind's History of Physick*, which was evidently calculated to serve his own Purposes, by flattering *those* whom he designed to betray.

Dr *Freind* was, doubtless, more learned than the Leaders of any *Cabal* in our time; but so far had the Corruption of imposing upon Mankind prevailed, that he had little hopes, perhaps, of destroying such *wicked Societies*, but by their own Arts, and their own Tools. His first Performances might have given reasonable Expectations of his Abilities; but as he found such honest Endeavours at a Reputation were rather hurtful

ful than beneficial to him, he changed hands and gave the World a *History of Physick*, which the Majority of Physicians thought learned, and thought it was the Produce of many Years ; yet by the artful manner of publishing it, he drew in the Faculty to approve it, without considering the End of his Scheme. The *Doctor* assures us roundly, that the Physicians of the present Age were grossly ignorant, and that they had not any Notion of the State of Physick. *Hippocrates*, we are told, taught his Followers, that Physick required Length of Time to acquire it, and that a Man's Life was too short for the Acquisition ; whereas the present Physicians had inverted the Wisdom of the *Aphorism*, by their Belief of the Easiness of the Acquisition, and that a Man's Life was more than enough to be Master of the Healing Art. Nor is the Knowledge of these Physicians more than their Power of Curing : for Dr *Freind* again assures us, that our Physicians know so little of Practice, that they have abridg'd the *Materia Medica*, and that they had scarcely Tools against any Disease.

SOME few indeed of a distinguish'd Character in their Profession own it, as we are told, *to a Sagacity in seeing through the Foibles of humane Nature, whereby they could form a good Judgment how far Mankind could be imposed upon, and never failed*  
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*to make an Advantage of their Credulity.* The Author of the *History* takes care to point out some whom he designed to comprehend in this honourable Account ; but I will only observe, on this occasion, that as the Majority of Physicians are *ignorant*, so the small Remainder are *Knaves* in Dr *Freind's* Opinion. The Counterpart of this Account is the Character of the Doctor himself, drawn by his own impartial Hand ; who is *Master of the Knowledge of all former Physicians*, and has equally copied after their *Virtue*, as well as their *Learning*. He, with great *Judgment*, has fathom'd the Depth of their *Knowledge* ; and has particularly regulated all the Actions of his Life, like the Mahometan *Avenzoar*, with a constant View to the World to come. Men must then be depriv'd of Sight, if such great Merits could possibly be overlook'd ; especially when the Knowledge of Physick centers so plainly in this *conscientious Doctor*.

Dr *Mead* (in appearance, the great Friend of the *Historian* ; and who was often call'd upon for a Voucher, when Argument and History fail'd him) easily discover'd his own *Foible*, and suffered more by the Unfaithfulness of his Ally, than the ignorant, and far more than the cunning Physicians formerly mentioned. A restless Desire of being esteemed a Person of *Learning*, which  
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he would have purchased at any expence, so blinded the Doctor, full of popular Fame, that he could not discern the Bait which was laid for his Vanity. Had either the Character of a *Learned Physician*, given in the *History*, been consider'd, or even the weak Defence made of his Book, about the *Plague*, been understood, it had been obvious that the Character of *Linacre*, by no means fitted Dr *Mead*; he never having been eminent for his writing in *Greek* or *Latin*, or for his employing these Languages upon *Galen* or *Hippocrates*, as *Linacre* the first *English* Physician, and *Freind* the last, had done: yet these are the Qualifications laid in the *History*, and which *Mead* took to himself. As to the Book of the *Plague*, it was less defended than if no Attempt of that kind had been made. As *ill got Fame* gives the like Satisfaction as *ill got Riches*, Dr *Mead* was so far ingenuous, as to desire a better Title than that he held for his *distinguished Learning*; and was under the greatest Uneasiness upon the Account of any Drawback made on that Possession.

The Character of *Learning* in a Physician was, in this particular, made subservient to Views of private Interest; but is far more glorious in one, that would live with the latest Posterity: for a *good Name is better than great Riches*; and as *Freind* was ambitious of a lasting Fame, so we find two  
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contemporary Physicians in the History, who he thought much obscur'd his Lustre; and are the two whom, he attacks with inordinate Fervency, and whose Reputation he endeavours, with the greatest Labour, to destroy, even in Contradiction to himself.

As the mentioned Physicians have defended themselves against the Misrepresentations of Dr *Freind*, and as I am to make no further Use of their Controversy, than what serves the purpose of my present Argument, I may take the liberty for once to name the Doctor's Adversaries. At home we have Dr *Cockburn*, and abroad the learned Dr *le Clerc*: the first as well esteemed abroad, as the last is among the learned in *England*. We are no strangers to the great Friendship our *domestick Adversaries*, cultivated for twenty years; 'till the following Abuses, merely to establish a superior Character for *Learning*, render'd Dr *Freind* insupportable to a Person, who had any regard to his Reputation, or had the means to support it. In the first, and one of the best of his Books, \* the Doctor assures his Reader, that Dr *Cockburn* was most knowing in the *Animal OEconomy*; which is the *Rationale of Anatomy*, and is truly the *Basis* of Physick; since in

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\* Emmenalog. p. 51.

it are laid the Principles for demonstrating the Nature of *Diseases*, in the same manner that *Euclid's Elements* are the Principles of *Geometry*.

FOR the like Reason that Dr *Cockburn* became obnoxious to Dr *Friend* as his Rival in *physical Knowledge*, Dr *le Clerc* is called upon to dispute which of them are the best *Writers of Physick History*. Dr *Freind* acknowledges that Dr *le Clerc* has writ the History of Physick, beginning with *HIPPOCRATES* and ending with *GALEN*, so accurately, that we find amply and clearly represented all the Philosophy, the Theory, and Practice of ancient Physicians; so that there is scarce a Notion, a Distemper, a Medicine, or even the Name of an Author, to be met with amongst them, of which he has not given a full and exact Account.

This Character of *le Clerc's* History is every where agreed to; but for this Reason it qualifies him for the Attacks of Dr *Freind*; who, speaking of the *Essay* for continuing it, charges it with being a very imperfect and superficial Performance; in many Particulars inaccurate and erroneous. But Dr *le Clerc* so far despises the Reflexions on his *Plan*, that he would not have defended himself against them, if Dr *Freind* had not charged him with more Faults than he was truly guilty of; and in his Defence candidly confesses a few *chronological Errors*, which he  
happen'd



happen'd to fall into, by trusting too much to a very good Historian ; but, at the same time he shows many Mistakes, and wilful Misrepresentations of his Adversary. From all this Transaction it is evident, that the Design of Dr *Freind's History of Physick*, was chiefly to establish to himself a Character of a superiour Knowledge in Physick, and greater Abilities for writing Physick History ; and fully *proves the Danger that commonly attends those, who endeavour to improve their Profession, and even those, who skilfully write the History of such Improvements.*

THE Superiority of Knowledge is claimed in a very easy Manner, that is perfectly well accommodated to Dr *Freind's* Genius. Has his Adversary contrived useful Medicines, but has he made a Secret of any? why then he's a *Quack*. But if he has communicated a Medicine, more effectual for the Distemper it is to remedy ; he is a *Plagiary*, and has stolen it from some other Physician. Has his *Adversary* given a *Method* for administering Medicines commonly practis'd; and that have often proved fatal, with *absolute Safety*? This is a Joke, a mere Project, not worth considering. But as this Calumny is advanced with a show of Learning, I shall only remark the Doctor's manner of proving these high Charges, and how he trusts more to the Credulity of *weak Men*, without any Knowledge, than

to the Strength and Validity of his Arguments. His first Proposition, that ancient Physicians never reserved any of their Medicines a *Secret*, he thinks is evident from *Aetius*; who, as in the History, collected a multitude of Receipts; particularly those, which had been much celebrated or used as *Nostrums*. Dr *Freind* concludes from this Passage, that there were not any *Nostrums*, or secret Medicines before *Aetius*, nor in his days; tho' he assures us that this Author collected them. There wants surely a great stock of Credulity to be of our Historian's Opinion.

*AETIUS* has indeed collected a great number of Medicines, that had been *Secrets*; among others, the Doctor's favourite *Philonium*, which he thought had never been a *Nostrum*; and therefore he was better acquainted with *Aetius* than he was with *Galen*, whom he seems never to have read.

BUT to do justice to the Doctor, so full Satisfaction was given him, by the *Observations on his History*, that *John Baillie*, in his Letter to Dr *Freind*, or the Doctor's Letter to himself, at last acknowledges, that not only Ancient Physicians, but the Modern likewise had their *Arcana*: Whether he thought them *Quacks* too he does not expressly determine. We must believe there was likewise a change of Opinion in this last Article: otherwise, the great *Hippocrates*



*pocrates* must fall under the same Condemnation, I cannot say justly; for the *Doctor* had taken a strange turn to the other Extream, even to believe *Legends*, an idle Story of *Actuarius* about an *Arcanum* of that Divine Person against the *Plague*; which must have been a *Nostrum* with a witness; for it must have been concealed for no less time than 1700 Years.

THE *Doctor* knew which of his *Allies* he was to compliment with this general Discovery of *Nostrums*, or *secret Medicines*. I will only observe, that Mankind in all Ages were equally dissatisfied with great, safe, and expeditious Cures, as in our own; and I shall produce a Proof from *Aetius* for what I affirm. This Author, mentioning the *Erice-rum*, a *Collyrium*, assures us, *That he had obtained the Medicine with great Trouble, and that he esteemed it a valuable Present*. But he, likewise, advises Physicians, not to anoint with it, till they are first rewarded for their Cure: Men often thinking their Distemper slight, when they are quickly cured. But this Advice is out of Doors, if the Physicians of the present Age cannot distinguish one Disease from another; and that they have so abridged the *Materia Medica*, that they have no *Tools* for curing any, as our ingenious Historian has affirmed.

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I SHALL conclude this Head with an Argument, in \* the *Observations* on Dr Freind's *History of Physick*, against discovering *Arcana*. *The best natur'd Men, who have truly at heart the Good of others, are, in my Opinion, mistaken; when they think such Discoveries would very much tend to the Good of the World.* ——— *The natural Consequence, I think, would be, first, the Ruin of Physick, and afterwards the Loss of those excellent Medicines themselves. On both which Considerations, the preserving Inventions, as Secrets, is not only every Man's Right, but is highly conducing to the Honour and Preservation of Physick, the greatest Blessing that can happen to Men.*

THE Credulous daily sacrifice their Lives, for the Confidence they place in their hardened Executioners; let us pass then into another head of Calumny, contrary in its Nature to the former, but equally subservient to serve a Friend, and to bespatter an Enemy. The having a *secret* Medicine was lately the great Offence; the divulging a *Secret* is now become a greater. That is not all; the pretended Charge must prove sufficient to destroy the Character of the whole Book, that mentions the Medicines.



IN the incomparable Performance about a *Gonorrhœa*, mention is made of an excellent *Ointment* for curing a *Shanker* that sometimes attends it. For some Years this *Ointment* was a Secret, but not to Dr *Freind*, and four or five more Physicians; yet he reported that *Fallopious* was the first Preparer of it, and consequently, that the Person who claimed it, pilfered a Reputation from the former. So tenacious is the Doctor, that he repeats this Calumny, which was fully answered, with some Change in the *History of Physick*. He wisely avoids an Appeal to *Fallopious*, but contents himself with making Dr *Mead* answer for the Truth of the *Ointment* being to be found in that Author. A vile Office put upon Dr *Mead*! and whether he would affirm against an obvious Fact, I do not assert. However, both of them laboured much to destroy the Character the Book had here, and all over *Europe*. One reproaches the Author for writing on a *filthy* Subject; both, that there were not three *Recipe's* in the whole Book. Dr *Freind* anticipates his Scandal 1200 Years; for it would more naturally have come into the *second* Volume of his History, where mention is made of *Fallopious*; but as that Volume was to see the World a Year after the *first*, they thought so long a Delay might much destroy the Force of the Calumny. In the Life therefore of *Aetius* he under-

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takes a Discourse about suppurating, and discussing of *Tumours*; and on the last Design forbids all *glutinous* and *viscid* Medicines; and in recommending *Mercury* he thinks *Turpentine* (a Medicine every body, but the Doctor, knows to be very *viscid*) very proper to be mixed with it, in order to render it more *discutient*, as *Fallopins*, he assures us, did; and appeals to Dr *Mead* for the Truth of his Assertion.

WHAT the mentioned Doctors alledge of *Fallopins* is altogether a wilful Misrepresentation: but if all they alledge was true, the Book of a *Gonorrhæa* may be a very excellent Performance, tho' its Author borrow'd an *Ointment* from *Fallopins*, which, unjustly he may claim as his own Composition. Here lies truly the Quarrel; the Book is good in the Sense of every common Reader, and in the declared Opinion of some of the most unquestionable Judges abroad.

IF the Book may be depended upon, the Doctrine of a *Gonorrhæa* is truly *medical*, no where falling under the Consideration, or Practice of a *Surgeon*, unless he is called for to apply the Ointment to a *Shanker*; the *Gonorrhæa* being the *Corruption* of a natural Liquor, which Physicians know best how to discharge, and to remedy all other troublesome Symptoms, that are the consequence of the different State of that Corruption;



ruption ; and infallibly disappear in the Progress of the general Cure of it. This Truth is so flagrant, that I challenge all the Surgeons, any where, to tell me of any Symptom, even to the forming the *Lues Venerea*, that is not the Off-spring of Errors in Practice, and not any distinct and essential Complaint.

IN this Case Dr *Freind* is employing all his Learning, *i. e.* all his Eloquence in forming a strong *Cabal* against Physicians ; and when neither of them are able to support him, nor give him a Character in his Profession, Physick itself is surely decaying, when HE, the goodliest Branch of either of our famous Universities, must have recourse to these Arts, even to tear the Bowels of his Mother for a Living. No body knew better than the *Doctor*, that the Physicians have, at all times, given the best Accounts of the Venereal Disease ; and have contriv'd the best Methods of curing it, and consequently have been the most successful, as well as the most learned, Curers of it. Besides, as Physicians know best upon what Views these Methods were invented, so they were not only the best, but the most common, Curers of the Disease under our present Consideration.

HAD Dr *Freind*, fired with a moderate Ambition of superiour Knowledge, endeavoured to lessen the singular Esteem of the

Book of the *Gonorrhœa*, so plentifully bestowed upon it by some of the best Judges in *Europe*, it had been far more excusable than the forming a *Party* against the Author of it and all Physicians, and abetting it with all the Scandal and Defamation, that the most prostitute Wretches can invent.

THE Perfection of any Performance often draws upon it critical Reflexions from envious Scholars; and if the practical Part of Physick is improved by it, there naturally attend such Discoveries all the malicious Misrepresentations *Craftsmen*, who live by abusing the People, are able to propagate. The Book of a *Gonorrhœa* is not only the most perfect Book of the kind, in the Opinion of the learned and famous *Dutch* Professor, Dr *Boerhaave*; but of the learned and eloquent Dr *Lancisi*, Physician to Pope *Clement* XI. to whose Industry we owe the most correct Tables of the great Anatomist *Bartholomæus Eustachius*; for as they were lost to the World one hundred Years, he not only saved them from destroying Time, but restored the Explanation of them, after the Original had perished without Retrieve. This excellent Physician, who has many ways obliged all Physicians, and enriched those in *Rome* with a chosen Collection of Books in his Profession, beautifully deposited in a publick Library; this Physician, I say, being above all Envy, has candidly ac-  
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known the perfect Performance of the *English* Physician: adding, withal, that it was the best Model of Writing on Physick, and that it plainly shewed, that *Physicians*, hereafter, *might find from the Symptoms of any Disease, the Nature of that Disease*. The candid Physician does not scruple to congratulate the Author, and the Commonwealth of Physick, upon the Usefulness of the Discovery. The Letter is so true a *Picture* of the *Learning, Elegance, and Candour* of *Lancisi*, that I shall annex a Copy of it; which I had from an *English* Physician, in *Naples*, who kept up the Correspondence of the *Italian* and *English* Physician, by forwarding their Letters.

It is both improper and needless, on this Occasion, to quote the Opinions of other eminent *Physicians* and *Surgeons*; especially, that the Book has changed the Notions, as well as the Practice, of Physicians all over *Europe*. However it may stand with the passive Philosophy of the Author of the Book of a *Gonorrhœa* I shall not affirm; but this Usage of *Misrepresentation, Slander, and Defamation*, ought justly to deter every *Physician* from producing such useful *Improvements*, in his Profession, as I was obliged to prove.

THE last Article of Calumny, mentioned in the *Observations* on the *History of Physick*, is quite of another kind from the

former : which, besides common Envy, seem to be subservient to the Interests of two different Parties ; the last, altogether proceeds from the Greatness of the Discovery, and the Apprehensions of the just Esteem Men might conceive for so bountiful a Security to their Lives. If therefore we consider the Discovery, it will be found equally to be admired for its comprehensive Learning, and clear Instructions, which never could be attained by the Experience of many Ages. The Practice of *Purging*, and *Vomiting*, *Medicines* was as universal as the *Effects* of them were obvious : nor were they always practised with Safety. This long Experience of Medicines, of daily Use, had not instructed Physicians in a safe way of administering them : their *Doses*, in Books of Physick, gave no Satisfaction to learned, or honest, Physicians ; and these Books are altogether void of the *Doses* of *Infants*, and of *Youth*, under the State of Men ; as also of Men, in the Decline of Age. What then could more conduce to the Honour of Physick, the Quiet of Physicians, and the Safety of Men, than plain and infallible Rules, for guarding a Multitude of Lives against the unknown Risque Men daily run in the Administration of such useful Medicines. Physicians might be conducted by these Rules ; which now detect their fatal Errors, chiefly occasioned by their not attending to the former.



mer. Yet both Physicians and Mankind are disobliged by the Discovery : for, in Town, the *first* are jealous of their Fame, or rather of their Gain, and make it their Business to perswade Men of the Insufficiency of the Discovery : Thus the *last* are betrayed by the Confidence they place in the *former*.

IN 1704, when the Question was put about the due *Doses* of *Purging* and *Vomiting* Medicines, the Variety of Cases was esteemed infinite, and never to admit of a positive Determination. Some, truly great, Physicians honourably acknowledged their Inability for solving the Problem ; while the Learned Members of the *Royal Academy of Sciences*, not only confessed the insurmountable Difficulty of the Problem ; and rightly judging, that a proper Solution extended farther, in the Practice of Physick, than the safe Administration of a *Purge*, or of a *Vomit*, desired that the Solution might be made publick before the Expiration of the Year, the Time allotted for publishing it in the Philosophical Transactions of the *Royal Society*.

THERE goes more than a common Assurance, to the defaming an useful Solution ; so much wanted by all ingenious and learned Physicians, and so much approved and defended among our selves, by the late Sir *Isaac Newton*, one of the best Judges that ever lived in any Age. But to justify the  
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learned Opinion of the Members of the Royal Academy of Sciences, I shall briefly observe some Particulars, in which the Truths of the Solution extend themselves thro' the whole Practice of Physick. In the Demonstration, the great Variety of Changes the Blood admits is plainly detected; here the Natural Constitutions of Men, and their Change in Sicknes become obvious and manifest; and by the *Table of Doses*, the Change of any Person's Constitution is practically shewn, and the Nature of the Change. Men then, far less discerning than those excellent Philosophers, must be convinced of the great and extensive Use of the Truths set forth in the *Solution*.

NOTHING is more publickly affirmed, than that a right Knowledge of a sick Person's Constitution principally conduces to the Cure of that Person's Sicknes. But Physicians disclaim this Knowledge, when they pretend that it only can be acquired by being conversant with particular Men: because, nothing is more obvious, than that natural Constitutions change at some certain times of Life, and always in times of Sicknes; so that no Familiarity can either discover the natural, or preternatural Change. Now as all these Changes are manifest by the Doctrine of the Solution, the sagacious *French Virtuosi* find their Pretence verified,



ed, and their Expectation answered in the Solution.

RASH is the Calumny propagated against the Author of the Problem, and great is the Weakness and Credulity of Men, who readily join in the Detraction to the Ruin of themselves, and others. But it is something worse than Temerity, for Physicians to credit their own Scandal to the ruining of Men, and hurting their own Reputation. I must appeal to those bold Detractors, if any Candour could lodge with so much Calumny, whether they have not often found their Sick expiring under the Operation of a *Purge*, and of a *Vomit*: But we must not expect that Men should avow their Misfortunes. I shall only instance in one Example, that is too publick to be either conceal'd, or deny'd.

A CHILD of six Years old, the Daughter of a perspicacious Minister, was in one Hour hurried from her Play into her Grave, by a vomiting Dose of fifteen *Grains* of *Ipecacuana*, and six *Drams* of *Oxymel* of *Squills*. According to the *Tables*, the Child had double her Dose, or the double of what a Person of her Age commonly takes: but, if she was of the Constitution, that is more easily vomited, the Quantity given her was four times her Dose; and if any present Indisposition favoured the working of the Vomit, the Dose still exceeded on that account. Had not any Physician better consult

sult the *Table of Doses*, than to live in Terror, during the Operation of a Vomit, or that he should charge *Nature*, or an *Apothecary*, with this Surprize on Nature, as some of the same Practisers call small Accidents of that kind, howsoever criminal.

I WOULD gladly know of the most credulous, what Injury is done to the World by rendering Medicines so much used, as *Purges* and *Vomits* are, safe, by determining their *just Doses*; and upon so sure a Foundation, that, at the same time, the Boundaries of *Experience*, and *Reasoning* in Physick, clearly appear. Nor should Physicians, eminent only by conspiring against Mankind, complain of *Discoveries*, that might guard their false Fame from the common Observation of the World; and even Physick it self, by their Mismanagement, from an Imputation of its being precarious, uncertain, and void of all Principles of Knowledge.

But we may see how Men conspire to their being abused by any Pretender, who will assume that Office, by the Arguments offered against the present Improvement. It is demonstrated, on the *Solution*, that *Purging* and *Vomiting Medicines* operate in a Proportion to the *Quantity* of *Blood*, and the *Squares* of its *Fluidity*. The *Physick Historian* pretends to expose this Truth, by alledging that *Avenzoar* reprehends *Alchindus*,



*chindus* for affirming that a *Purge* may be so exactly squared to the Constitution of the Patient, and the Nature of the Humour to be discharged, and declares that such Speculations contribute very little to form a Judgment about any right Method of Cure. But this, like the former game about *Fallopious*, and the Ointment in the Book of the *Gonorrhœa*, is absolutely false; no such account being in *Alchindus*, or *Avenzoar*. Dr *Freind* assures us that *Averrhoes* thought *Avenzoar* a glorious and an admirable Person, the Treasure of all Knowledge, as well as the Supreme in Physick from *Galen's* time down to his own. But this again is nothing else than Dr *Mead's* vouching for an Ointment not to be found in *Fallopious*. Thus when the Proof of any Fact is wanting, he has recourse to living, or dead, Vouchers. The charging the Dead for supporting Falsities, is as scandalous in the Historian, as the Affirmation of a living Voucher to a Falschhood is ignominious to himself. After all; *Averrhoes* is not esteemed by Dr *Freind*, who assures us that he was no great Practitioner, i. e. not so great as himself: for on all Comparisons of this kind, through the History of Physick, he is always supreme.

WERE we to conclude any thing from this Manner of Reasoning, about humane Credulity; sure nothing is more liable to be

be imposed upon: for if Dr *Freind* (who has studied the *Foibles* of Human Nature, and can form a good Judgment, how far Mankind can be imposed upon; and never failed to make his Advantage of their Credulity, can impose upon the World with borrowed Titles and false History; we must confess, that Men are more easily caught than *Mackerel*.

THERE seems to be nothing new in this manner of treating the most useful Physicians. *Hippocrates* complained of it; and *Democritus*, who had thoroughly considered Mankind, had not overlook'd the Fate of Physick; when he tells *Hippocrates*, that he supposed that most things in his *Art*, lay under publick *Calumny*, either through *Envy* or *Ingratitude*.

THUS far I have considered the Danger of improving Physick, as I have been led by the *Slander* in the *History of Physick*; and the Defence made in the *Observations* on the Misrepresentations of the History; and as I have fully made out the Danger, I might put an end to this Discourse, but that I think this Argument will be more perfect, by pursuing one thing hinted in the *Observations*, &c. to some greater Length. For there will appear the greatest *Envy* on one side, and the greatest *Ingratitude* on the other, that Credulity itself ever did admit. Besides, some incidental Account will be given



given of the present *Epidemical Fever*, not only agreeable, but what may be still very useful at this time.

THE present *Fever*, with a Variation in some of its Symptoms, has now subsisted twelve Years; not in *England* only, but all over *Europe*. Few, or no, Physicians suspected the reigning and popular Disease to be a *Fever*; *Vapours*, a *Nervous Disease*, and such general Appellations it had from sundry Physicians. Others who discovered the Fever, knew it was the *Low* or *Slow Fever* first mentioned by *Hippocrates*, and in the best Books of Physick had a place among Fevers, thro' all succeeding Ages. The last were represented as ignorant, for calling the Distemper a *Fever*, and affixing to it the name *Low*, or *Slow*: a *Slow-Fever* being, in their Adversaries opinion, altogether unheard of among Physicians, and never recorded in their Books. Nothing was thought more monstrous than calling this Distemper a *Fever*, or confining Persons afflicted with it to their Bed, and dieting them with Broth, or other liquid Food of good Nourishment, and what is easily concocted.

WE must not wonder that this Imputation lay heavy on the learned Physicians, among the Populace for seven Years; because it was charged by Men of greater Character than Knowledge. We must only

wonder, that a Prejudice taken by easy Men, should still remain with them, after the flandering Physicians, have both admitted the *Slow-Fever* to have been constantly described in Books of Physick, and the *Diet* and *Management* of the Sick as the most proper, and best adapted to the Cure of the *Epidemical Fever*. The Calumny sticks, tho' the detracting Physicians have changed both their Opinions, and Practice. Physicians then are in a deplorable Condition, that are subject to obloquie; for at first finding out the Disease, and the best Method of curing it: but the more that Men, who join in the Defamation, never think themselves obliged to repair the Wounds and Injuries they have given. Good Sense should lead Men to consider the Change; and good Nature to make Satisfaction for the greatest Offence; that of Defamation.

Is any thing more obvious than that Physicians acknowledge themselves seven Years in an erroneous Practice; and the Bills of Mortality declare the Consequences of their Mistake: for in the Year 1723, two Years before the Change, the yearly Bill was 3347 higher than in the preceeding Year, tho' for some Years the Bills were rising every Year. I will not charge these Physicians with the Ballance of Mortality, nor with what has since happened in the Course



Course of the *Epidemick Fever*, still raging; but I must admire the Credulity of Men, who cannot discern where the Reprehension is due. They might have seen Physicians practising for a destroying Distemper; and yet, after seven Years, they confess themselves ignorant of its very Name. What great Hazards, then, do Physicians run in their Fame, not only for clearing up a single Difficulty in their Profession; but even for discovering, at first Sight, a dangerous Disease, that may not only still prove fatal by its Continuance; but by its being attended with more violent and mortal Symptoms.

THE Calumny against the *Low-Fever* was carried on, for the mentioned years of Ignorance, by the *Officers of the Cabal*; nor durst they trust it openly in the World; but, when the *Fever* was adopted into their Number of that kind, the Detraction must be continued against the Practice of the *Physician*, that had both discovered the dark and obscure Sicknes, and establish'd the most proper Method of curing it. There were Reasons for acknowledging the *Fever*, and others for keeping up the *Scandal* on the Practice against the Disease. I shall first relate the Objections made to the Practice, and, after considering them, give the History how the *Slow-Fever* happened to be received by *those very Men*, who had affirmed

firmed it a Distemper, never named by Physicians in former Times, and altogether unknown.

DR *Freind* in the *History of Physick*, speaking of a hard or *schirrhous* Swelling, is pleased to compare it to a *Slow-Fever*; and tells us \* that *too liberal a Use of Diaphoreticks, without proper Evacuations, renders the Blood more viscous than it was before, and more liable to Stagnation*; and affirms, with an *Anathema*, that this ill-judged and preposterous Method, not only gives no Relief to the original Complaints, but lays a Foundation for many Distempers, and perhaps of a worse Kind, to succeed. Here we find the first Reception of the *Slow-Fever*; but *Hippocrates* tells us, that it is a very obscure Distemper, which neither the Sick, nor any about him had observed, and what neither Dr *Freind*, nor any of his Concerts, had hitherto discover'd; we may fairly question, how they became of a sudden acquainted with the most proper Method of curing it. Men must be led by *Symptoms* first to find a Disease; after which, its *Nature*, and from this the Method of *Cure*; and as all these were unknown, we must conclude a Physician to have a good Assurance, who pretends to practise against



an *unknown Disease*, and far more to condemn the Practice of *those*, who had discovered the *Fever*, and its *Nature*, seven Years before.

THE Charge itself supports what I now affirm ; for in it there is neither common Sense, nor a common Taste in the plainest, and most obvious, Parts in Physick. If any Man is ever so partial to any Administration in the Cure of a Disease, he will readily agree that *too liberal an Use of it* is always improper ; but then, if the Fault is in overdosing *Diaphoreticks*, these Medicines in a *due Dose* may be the most useful. In that Case, the Objection does not affect the Practice of the *Physician* whom they would affect by it, but rather confirms the Goodness of it.

In the next place, does the *Doctor* think that there is no *Evacuation* by *Diaphoreticks* ? If he does, he plainly contradicts the plainest Experiments of the *Statical Physick* ; for by that we are sure (as sure as *weighing* can inform us) that it is greater than all the other Evacuations taken together. Now as there is a *Diaphoretical Evacuation*, and this Evacuation, *not too liberal* ; is proper ; this Method is, on that Account, the most proper Method of curing a *slow Fever*, according to *Freind's* own way of Reasoning. What he means by the Words, *without proper Evacuations*, is a  
*Nostrum*

*Nostrum* he keeps with the greatest Reserve; but if he means *purging*, even with *Tinctura sacra*, or *bleeding*; they have not only been excluded from the Practice of the *present Fever*; but have commonly proved fatal in the hands of those, who have pertinaciously stuck to the Practice of them. The notable ill Success of *these Methods* hath justly made them odious all over *England*.

THAT the *Blood* is render'd more *viscous* by the Practice of *Diaphoreticks* is equally false by the *Statical Physick*, as that *Diaphoreticks* produced no *Evacuation*. As to the Charge, that *Diaphoreticks* lay a *Foundation* for many *Distempers*, and perhaps of a worse kind, is altogether the *Quackery* of *raw-head* and *bloody Bones*; and is an Argument that can only take place, according to the Confidence which the credulous Sick repose in the Person who intends to frighten him with it; but what has no Foundation either in Reason, or Experience.

IT must be confess'd, that it is not easy for the greatest Number of Physicians to practise accurately by *Diaphoreticks*; for though, in some sense, there are not so many ways of erring in administering them, as in any other *Evacuation*; yet it is very hard to know when they are *not used liberal enough*; never when their Use is *too liberal*; but we cannot reasonably expect, that Men should give Rules for *Diaphoreticks*,  
who



who cannot govern the extream Doses of *Purging*, *Vomiting*, and of *Bleeding*; if I may so call the *excessive shedding of Blood*. But let any Physician be on his guard, when, at any time, he gives laws to *Diaphoreticks*; which may prove the Ruin of his Reputation, and his utter undoing in the World.

It is not sufficient, to have a general account of a *slow Fever*; but all *Fevers* appear with other Diseases, and are often attended with Diseases which have more conspicuous and terrible Symptoms. Physicians ought to be able to distinguish between a *Fever*, and its *Symptoms*; more especially when the Disease is very *obscure*, as is the *Low-Fever*; which is attended with a greater Variety of strange and terrible Symptoms, than any other *Fever* whatsoever; but which cannot receive any Relief, otherwise than by curing the *Fever* itself.

*ABOUT the Autumnal Equinox* (says Hippocrates) *the Son of Eratolaus was taken ill of a Dysentery with a Fever. Neither the sick Person, nor any about him, for the first six days observed this little Fever; it was so low and obscure. Yet there was a great Pulsation of the Temples, or of the temporal Arteries; and the Tongue was white, and his Drought was moderate, and he without Sleep. Tho' the Case continued above forty days, yet his Heart, and his*

F

Tongue

Tongue, and his Thirst, persevered in the mentioned State, and he did not sweat.

IN the present Case, we find the most constant Symptoms of a *Low-Fever* to this Day. I only wonder how this plain and accurate Description was overlooked by Dr *Freind*. The Book of the *Plague* forbids us to expect any such Discoveries from its *Author* : But what is more wonderful, that the common Rule, in the *seven Years* of general Ignorance, is altogether contrary to the current Sense of Physicians in all *Ag*es. *You are not Hot ; you are not Dry ; you are in good Temper ;* and, therefore, *you have no Fever*, was the common Language of the Town. But this differs from the present Case of young *Eratolaus*, and *Hippocratick* Physicians were condemned, by the Bold, in Ignorance.

I MUST next observe, that the *Obscure Fever* was attended with a *Bloody-Flux* : This was *obvious*, while the *principal Disease* was not apprehended, 'till it fell under the Observation of *Hippocrates*. This Blindness render'd, doubtless, the Case more dangerous ; as it commonly does among ourselves. It is certain, that there is not any one Disease, in Physick, which undergoes greater Variation than the *Slow-Fever*. If a Person has a consuming *Ptyalism*, or *Spitting*, it may depend on the *obscure Fever*, and withstand all *Astringents*, the com-  
mon



mon Resort for *Evacuations*; indeed the most regular Practice against a *Ptyalism*, if regard is not had to the *Fever*, is always ineffectual.

BUT here I must stop, in view of the Wrecks of great Physicians, and not proceed in the History of *Mistakes*, occasioned by the *Obscurity* of the Disease, and *Terror* of its Symptoms; because this useful History may prove very dangerous to the Person who undertakes it; I shall rather briefly show, why the *Slow-Fever* was received, notwithstanding its *Nature*, and the *Method of Curing* it are still unknown.

WE have found that the Calumny, about a *Slow-Fever*, was chiefly propagated in a clandestine Manner, by the *lower Order of the Cabal*; for this Reason there was not any room left for a Defence; till Sir *Richard Blackmore*, in an open and fair Manner, fell foul of Dr *Freind's* Comments on some Books of *Hippocrates's Epidemics*, or *popular Diseases*. Had Sir *Richard* attack'd his Adversary with any Temper, and had he not thrown off all regard for the *Founder of our Faculty*, so just and highly esteemed by the best, and most learned, Physicians, from the time of that admirable Person, down to our own, he had neither exposed his own Knowledge, nor undergone the due Correction he suffered on that occasion.

AMONG other Proofs of his being a Stranger to the Writings of Physicians, especially of the great *Hippocrates*, he falls into a more pardonable Error, about a *Slow-Fever*; for while he magnifies his own Observation about the *Fever*, Epidemick among ourselves, he gives an imperfect Description of a Disease he might have better learned from the *Physician*, whom he calumniates, and at the same time he might have been sensible that it was not *New*. For the Description he gives of his *Hysterick Fever*, so much resembles a Commentator on the forementioned History of *Hippocrates*, that it seems to be taken from him; tho' neither of them are equal to the Case of young *Eratolaus*.

THIS Defence of *Hippocrates*, and, by him, of Dr *Freind's* useful Undertaking, was so pleasing to the *Doctor*, that he forthwith took a *Slow-Fever*, into his number of *Fevers*. *Mead* followed him, and the multitude of Detractors. *Freind* was particularly delighted with *Riolan's* Comment, which seemed to explain, and enlighten, the confused Notions they had about the *common* and *Epidemick Disease*; because it better expressed the *Vapours*, *Nervous*, and *Hysterick* Distempers, they had grossly conceived. *Hujusmodi Febricula dignoscenda potius ex languore, inappetentiâ, corporisque Gravitate quam ex vehementia Symptoma-*  
tum;



*tum ; ita ut dicere possimus hujusmodi Ægrotos non sentire morbum nisi privativè, dum solitas Actiones non possunt facile obire.*

Now as Physicians have both embraced a *Slow-Fever*, and forsaken their *Nostrums* of *proper Evacuations* ; there is nothing left to desire, but that weak Men would forget the unfavourable Impressions made upon them by *vile Slanderers*, who have now become *Converts* to Opinions which they had before industriously loaded with Calumny. But Men, I fear, in *Scandal*, are what an *excellent Author* says of *Fashions* in some Churches ; They are *always ready to receive every new Mode, without laying aside any of the old.*

By this Account it is manifest, that a *Physician, who improves his Profession* is sure to be loaded with all the Calumny which *ignorant Physicians* can devise, and Men seldom fail to entertain the plentiful Reproaches of the Detractors. There is likewise nothing new in this Treatment ; which is as ancient as the Records of *Physick* themselves. It was the Complaint of the great *Hippocrates* : and *Democritus*, the wisest of Men, had observed this Foible of humane Nature. The *first* informs us ; that *Physick*, the most excellent of all Arts, was become the most contemptible, through the *Unskilfulness* of Physicians, and the *Rudeness* of the People ; who believe these ignorant Men to be Physicians.

ficians. *Democritus*, indeed, had examin'd the intemperate Disregard Men commonly have for Knowledge, and as harshly observes upon their Dealings with *Physicians*, as he had done in other Particulars in human Life; and, in his Conversation with *Hippocrates*, thus expresses himself. *I very much suspect, that many things in your Profession fall under publick Contumely, either through Envy, or Ingratitude; for as soon as the Sick recover their Health, they ascribe their Recovery either to the Gods, or to Chance; but a great many attributing it to their own natural Constitution, hate their Benefactor; and hardly forbear thinking themselves very ill used for being under an Obligation for so good an Office.*

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Dr *Lancisi*'s Letter to Dr *Cockburn*,  
mentioned pag. 19.

**E**Volvi opus à capite, ut aiunt, ad calcem, & quidem summâ cum voluptate; versatur enim circa argumentum, si non omnino novum, novarum certè observationum, doctrinarum, ac remediorum accessione per Telocupletatum, utileque redditum; in quo præterea nec lucidus ordo, nec stylus elegans, quibus scripta nostra lectoribus maximè commendantur, ullâ in parte desideratur; ac proinde



*proinde non dubito, quin, quod tute in epistola nuncupatoria asseris, datis alterius cujuscunque morbi symptomatibus, ejusdem etiam naturam, iisdem planè modis, quibus Tu ad Gonorrhœam pervenisti, facilè erui, atque explicari in posterum possit. Habeo itaque quod non tibi solum gratuler, sed etiam universæ Medicorum Reipublicæ, quippe quæ unico ex volumine omnia, vel de natura, ac sede hujus mali, vel de curatione utiliter hauriet. Sed judicium hujus Commentarii frustra ab aliis expetis, cum Tu magno ingenio, præclarâ eruditione, assiduoque usu donatus tum scribendis, tum exponendis libris Judex præ cæteris sedere possis.*

*Accipe intereà specimen hoc cum benè auspicae nobiscum amicitiae, tum candoris mei; & Rem Medicam doctissimis tuis laboribus locupletare perge. Vale.*

Romæ, Idibus Januarii  
M D CC XVII.

F I N I S.

The first thing I noticed when I stepped  
out of the plane was the cold air. It was  
a sharp contrast to the warm, humid air of  
the tropics. I had heard that the weather  
in the north was harsh, but I didn't realize  
how different it was. The trees were tall and  
thin, with dark bark and green leaves. The  
ground was covered in a thick layer of  
moss and ferns. I had never seen anything  
like this before. The people I met were  
different too. They had a different way of  
thinking, a different way of life. I was  
in a new world, a world I had never  
known before. I was in the north, in the  
land of the living dead.

THE NORTH  
LAND OF THE LIVING DEAD

THE NORTH  
LAND OF THE LIVING DEAD